Following three years of analysis, planning, and discussion with school, district, college, and nonprofit leaders, the Cullen Foundation is proud to announce the launch of the new Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows (BUTF) program to address increasingly acute local teacher shortages.

BUTF is designed to help community members interested in teaching find the right path for them, become excellent teachers, and to address three systemic issues identified during that process:

- **Teacher Shortage**
  - A study of eight school districts in Buffalo shows that schools must recruit 25% more teachers to fill existing vacancies.
- **TNTP**, a national leader in teacher recruitment and development, will lead BUTF to recruit 225 new teachers to Buffalo schools, with a goal of recruiting cohorts that are at least 60% fellows of color.
- Fellows will first serve as residents in public schools that enroll students from Buffalo while earning a master’s degree and obtaining their teaching certification. Fellows will receive ongoing professional development, mentoring, wraparound services, and other supports to thrive.
- Niagara University, Canisius College, Buffalo State University, and Relay Graduate School of Education will host and certify fellows during their residencies. Fellows will also be eligible for scholarship awards to offset tuition for these programs and will receive wraparound supports to help them succeed in the classroom.

If you know someone who might be a fit for the program, they can apply on the website here: [https://www.teachbuffalo.org/butf](https://www.teachbuffalo.org/butf)

A warm welcome to BUTF Founding Director Melissa A. Lopez. Melissa is an award-winning educator with deep expertise in teacher development, experience as a school leader, and more than a decade of classroom teaching experience. Melissa is committed to advancing and ensuring student and teacher success, and has dedicated her career to creating equitable learning environments, coaching and developing fellow educators, supporting teacher growth, and leading teacher programs that improve outcomes and experiences for students.

Melissa A. Lopez

Thoughts from Leaders in Our Community

- "TNTP is thrilled to support the launch and growth of the Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows (BUTF) to help bring more talented educators of diverse backgrounds into our strong districts as soon as possible. TNTP is thankful for our partners, the city schools, the partnerships with the four schools who host fellows, and the students and families who know how important it is to bring great leaders to the teaching profession, create pathways for equity, and work for the success of all students," says Trina Burruss, CEO, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

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- "We are grateful to our many WNY partners for their shared commitment to strengthening the experiences and achievement of Buffalo students. TNTP is excited to bring our 15 years of experience training early career teachers to Buffalo and to partner with local city schools and graduate programs in education to address this issue. TNTP brings experience training fellows in 34 cities, and we’re eager to do the same work here to hand with local organizations to help our region," says Corey Bower, Program Officer for Education, Cullen Foundation.

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Participating Colleges & Universities

Fellows will attend one of these four schools to earn a Master’s Degree and a Teacher Certification:

- **Niagara University**
- **Canisius College**
- **Buffalo State University**
- **Relay Graduate School of Education**

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